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E.O. 12065: GDS 12/02/86 (BROWN, WILLIAM A.) OR-M
TAGS: CASC, SOCI, IS, CPAS
SUBJECT: REPORT OF FBI ALLEGATIONS AGAINST BLACK HEBREWS

REF: TEL AVIV 19493

1. (U) ON DECEMBER 1, THE JERUSALEM POST CARRIED A REPORT FROM THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE ON FBI INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE CRIMES BY BLACK HEBREWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: HEADING--FBI SUSPECTS BLACK HEBREWS OF \$4 MILLION THEFT--END HEADING.

"CHICAGO (AP) MEMBERS OF THE BLACK HEBREWS RELIGIOUS SECT HAVE ALLEGEDLY STOLEN AN ESTIMATED \$4.4 MILLION FROM AIRLINES AND BANKS OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS, A NEWSPAPER REPORTED YESTERDAY.

MUCH OF THE MONEY MAY HAVE BEEN SENT TO ISRAEL, WHERE ABOUT 2,000 (SIC) MEMBERS OF THE SECT LIVE, MANY OF THEM ILLEGALLY, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE SAID.

THE FBI SAID IT IS NOT INVESTIGATING THE SECT ITSELF, ONLY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. JAMES INGRAM, HEAD OF THE FBI OFFICE IN CHICAGO, TOLD THE TRIBUNE 13 MEMBERS OF THE BLACK HEBREWS ARE BEING SOUGHT AROUND THE COUNTRY ON FEDERAL FUGITIVE CHARGES AND THAT POLICE IN SEVERAL CITIES ARE LOOKING FOR ABOUT 40 OTHERS ON THEFT-RELATED CHARGES. SIX WHO WERE ARRESTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES HAVE JUMPED BAIL AND THE FBI SAYS IT BELIEVES THEY MAY HAVE FLED TO ISRAEL.

A LEADER OF THE BLACK HEBREWS, ASIEL BEN-ISRAEL, DENIED THE SECT'S INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME." END TEXT.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY SL DATE 8/10/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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